

REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. The specification has been amended to add subject headings and to not refer to the claims. It is believed that no new matter is added to the application by this amendment.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are pending in the application. Allowable claim 10 has been cancelled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 12-20 have been amended to depend upon device claim 11. The claims have also been amended to improve their language.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Reed and La Mers

Claim 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Reed (U.S. Patent 4,475,969) in view of La Mers (U.S. Patent 4,648,930). Applicants traverse.

Allowable claim 10 has been cancelled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 10 was free of this rejection over Reed and La Mers. Claim 1 (and its dependent claims) are thus instantly allowable over Reed And La Mers.

This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has acknowledged the allowability of claims 10-20.

Information Disclosure Statement

The applicants thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 27, 2002, and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004.

Prior Art

The prior art cited but not utilized by the Examiner indicates the status of the conventional art that the invention supercedes. Additional remarks are accordingly not necessary.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority in the Office Action mailed December 8, 2004.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Conclusion

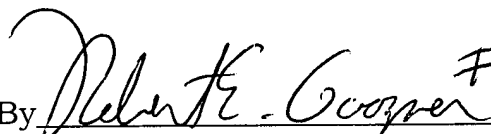
The Examiner's rejection has been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to allow the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42,593
for James M. Slattery, #28,380

JMS/REG/kdm
3868-0114P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000